

# The Vietnam War 1964-73

---

## **1954:**

U.S. Involvement in Vietnam begins when we jump in to help France with the growing problem

Between 1954 and 1964 our presence in Vietnam gradually increases

## **1959:**

First U.S. Troop lost

## **1964:**

Vietcong (communist civilian troops) attack several major strategic areas losing 100 men while the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam loses only 4

Tonkin Gulf Resolution: m

## **1965:**

Camp Holloway is attacked by the Viet Cong

Australian troops are sent in to reinforce American troops

First Medal of Honor awarded posthumously to U.S. Marine Corps LT. Frank Reasoner of Kellogg, ID

U.S. troop numbers raised to 125,000

## **1966:**

U.S. attacks for the first time near Hanoi (the capitol of the Communist Government led by Ho Chi Minh)

## **1967:**

U.S. troop strength is up to 500,000

9,000 + troops killed just during this year

## **1968:**

During the Vietnamese holiday of Tet, a truce is called. The Viet Cong violate the truce attacking in the city of Saigon. Communist troops take over the U.S. Embassy. It takes two weeks to completely defeat the Viet Cong in the city. In terms of troop loss, the Viet Cong lost 10,000 men so it was a defeat. Reality was that it was a decisive victory for the Viet Cong as American's could not believe that our embassy was taken

My Lai Massacre: Members from Charlie Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry are ordered to go into the village suspected to be a Viet Cong hideout with guns blazing. American soldiers kill 200-500 innocent villagers

Communist make second attempt to defeat South Vietnamese cities

Richard Nixon is elected President of the United States

# The Vietnam War 1964-73

---

## 1969:

Battle of Hamburger Hill: 10 day battle for Ap Bia Mountain considered to be one of the worst battles of the war. 56 Americans killed 420 injured

Cambodia is secretly bombed

Nixon starts to remove troops. By end of 1969 there are 479,000 troops there

During the month of November 250,000 gather on the mall at Washington D.C. to protest the War

Concert at Woodstock occurs

400,000 men women and children go to Bethel, New York to participate in a music festival

Lots of music, lots of drugs, and lots of rain

## 1970's

There is a growing dislike for the war. People want it to be over including Congress. Peace talks are on going

**1971:** Congress cuts of funding and military support to the area

**1972:** Nixon brings the number of U.S. troops in Vietnam down to 29,000

January 1973: final portion of peace talks begin

Nixon announces agreement "**to end the war and bring peace with honor in Vietnam and S.E. Asia.**" (<http://www.landscaper.net/timelin.htm>)

January 25: official end of war

It will take 3 months to have most POW's released and bring home 23,000 troops

November: War Powers Act passed through Congress limiting Presidential authority to commit troops without Congressional permission

## 1974:

Nixon resigns Gerald Ford becomes the only President not elected to either the position of President or Vice President

## 1975:

The last American soldier is killed

Last Americans are evacuated by helicopter from U.S. Embassy roof

Saigon government surrenders to Viet Cong

## 1982:

Talks begin regarding remaining American POW's

Completion of Vietnam Veterans Memorial

# The Vietnam War 1964-73

---

## **1991:**

Office is established in Hanoi to search for missing soldiers

## **1995:**

U.S. Embassy reopens in Hanoi

Total Dead: **58,209**

Total Missing (as of 2000): **1,992 (646 cases closed; the rest still open)**

Sources:

<http://www.landscaper.net/timelin.htm>

<http://www.historycentral.com/Vietnam/bigantiwar.html>

*U.S. History for Dummies*

Wikipedia (various articles)